

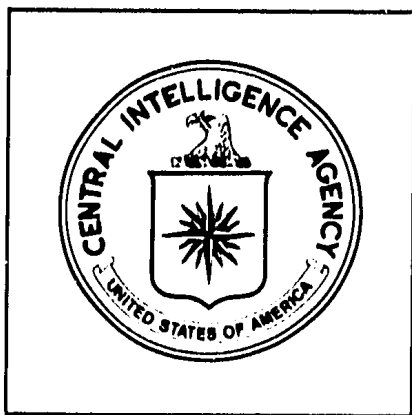
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CIAOSR MDTCS 03926/75
Military Developments 6 Sep 75

TS/SI/TK/NFD/IUO 1 of 1
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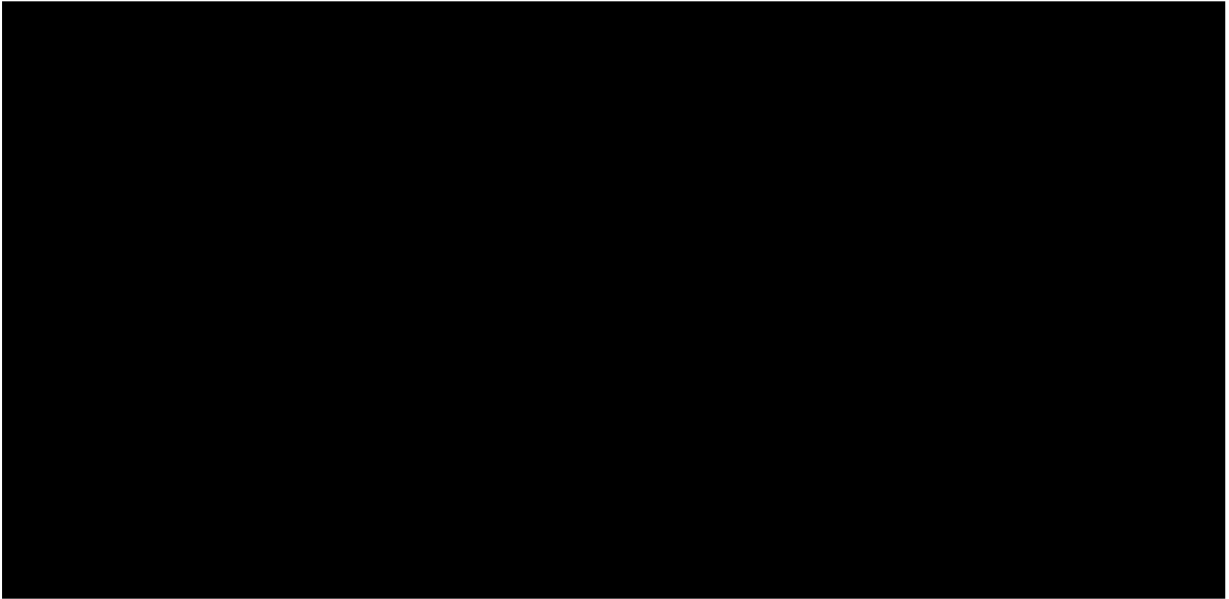
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USSR: R & D Testing of New Missile Continues

On September 2, the Soviets conducted a second launch of their newest submarine-launched ballistic missile--

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After a flight test program of about two years, this missile will probably replace the SS-N-6 now carried on the Y-class submarine.

The new missile--a two-stage, probably solid-propellant vehicle--can deliver multiple reentry vehicles which are not believed to be independently targetable. There are insufficient data to estimate the operational range of this missile, but it is likely to exceed the 1,600-mile range of the SS-N-6. 

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MALAYSIA: Upgrading Firepower of its Ground Forces

Malaysia is pushing ahead with plans to standardize the infantry's combat rifle and upgrade the firepower of its ground forces. [REDACTED] the Malaysian Ministry of Defense is searching for a combat rifle to replace the HK-G-33 Assault Rifle, after receiving reports from field commanders in June that the rifle's poor performance had adversely affected the morale and discipline of Malaysian reconnaissance units. Malay soldiers reportedly are reluctant to go on patrol or engage communist insurgents with the rifle.

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Kuala Lumpur will sign an agreement with Colt Industries in early September for the purchase of 41,000 M-16s--valued at more than US \$12 million--to replace the HK-G-33. The first shipment of 10,000 rifles will arrive in December and the remaining 31,000 in July 1976.

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[REDACTED]

The Malaysian ground forces are equipped with the Italian Beretta and HK-G-33 combat rifles. A few elite units are equipped with the M-16. According to the Malaysian Ministry of Defense, the ground forces have had problems for the past two years with the HK-G-33 rifle, which has a tendency to jam after a few rounds are fired. [REDACTED]

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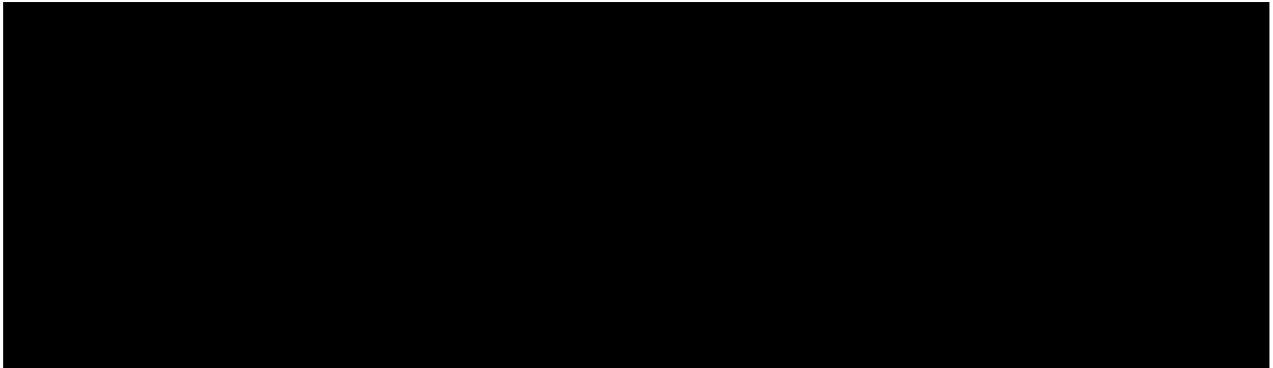
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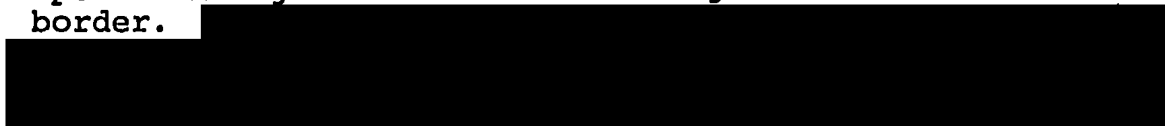
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Kuala Lumpur probably will give the first M-16s received to the eight to ten battalions engaged in operations against communist insurgents on the Thai border.

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